

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 29th November 1902.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1590. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* again asks for the repeal of the Chaukidari Tax and for the application of the proceeds of the Stamp Duty to the maintenance and improvement of the police.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Nov. 1902.

The separation of the Police from the Magistracy can be effected, it says, by the appointment of a Magistrate with first class powers at each district and subdivisional head-quarters, under the District and Sessions Judge, for the trial of police cases only.

1591. The *Bengalee* severely criticises the evidence of Mr. James Monroe before the Police Commission. If there could, as he is alleged to have said, be no improvement in the moral qualities of Indian officers, unless there was a radical change in the Indian nature and character, why, it asks, is he wasting his substance in attempting the impossible task of reforming them? If Mr. Monroe could make no helpful suggestion for reforms, he might as well have stayed on at Ranaghat and not taken the trouble of coming to Calcutta to vomit out vitriol.

BENGALIEE,
22nd Nov. 1902.

1592. The *Bengalee* describes the village chaukidar as an institution of very ancient date; never, in spite of all his shortcomings, as oppressive or overbearing as the regular constable. A man of the village, he possessed local sympathies and was not remiss in his duties, as he was paid by his neighbours. Quite otherwise is the regular constable, who is not interested in the detection of thieves. He is interested in knowing who they are, for such knowledge would mean money to him. The chaukidar, however, since becoming a *quasi*-Government servant, has been gradually cut adrift from all his old associations. He looks more to the good opinion of the officer in charge of his thana than to that of his co-villagers. The quality of his work has deteriorated considerably, and if he is made more subordinate to the Regular Police than he is at present there is not the slightest doubt that he will become another source of oppression to the people.

BENGALIEE,
23rd Nov. 1902.

1593. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers it ridiculous that officials like District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police, who control the Police, should be found to testify to the popularity of the Police, when the people themselves say they are disliked. The Commission itself owes its origin to the complaints of the people against the Police. The *Patrika* would suggest that instead of the Commission increasing its work in the way it is doing, it should call for Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt and settle all points at a private conference.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Nov. 1902.

1594. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes Dr. W. W. Hunter to prove that the people of Bengal are not as criminal as those of England and Wales, and that there is therefore no need for such a large police force in this country. The Police Commission, he thinks, should not further strengthen the hands of the Police against the people, but in order to establish a cordial feeling between the two, make the police less terrible; and this can be obtained by separating the Police from the Magistracy.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Nov. 1902.

1595. The *Bengalee* describes the position of the Head Constable of Police, the numerous calls on his pay, and the temptations to be corrupt to which he is exposed, and is not surprised that he should succumb to them. The old English writers of the East India Company were not proof against temptation—nay, it was just the tremendous amount of bribery and corruption which prevailed among them which led to the constitution of the present Indian Civil Service. Even with its princely pay this same Civil Service had men in it like Crawford of Bombay and Larpent of Lahore, and yet Mr. Monroe in his charity maligns the Indians!

BENGALIEE
26th Nov. 1902.

BENGALIEE,
27th Nov. 1902.

1596. The *Bengalee* referring to the unanimous opinion expressed before the Police Commission that the Magistracy should be separated from the Police, says it remains to be seen whether the Commission will burke the question on technical grounds or proceed to tackle it boldly. The whole country is anxiously awaiting the result of their deliberations.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
37th Nov. 1902.

1597. Commenting on the nature of the evidence collected by the Police Commission, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says: Fancy that even the historical District Superintendent, Mr. Reily, was summoned to enlighten the Commission as to how the Police do their work!

It hopes that at Bankipore members of the legal profession will be more in evidence and tender themselves for examination.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
27th Nov. 1902.

1598. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains why, in its opinion, the Police Commission considered it necessary to countermand its invitation to Babu Moti Lal Ghose, the Editor of that paper, to attend the Commission for oral examination. It is insinuated that the Commission feared ugly disclosures, and "that the Government always fights shy of the so-called demagogues. A demagogue is an incongruous element, an insidious enemy, and a traitor in the camp. And this is the opinion held of him universally in the world of bureaucracy. It is thus natural that the Government when organizing Commissions appoint only those upon whom it has absolute confidence. Of course one does not see what harm even a worst form of demagogue can do in an Indian Commission. But nervousness is not always obedient to reason."

Yet, observes the journal, it does not matter much whether a so-called demagogue is permitted to sit on the Commission or not. Indeed, it is exceedingly doubtful who has the better chance of serving his country—one who is outside or one who is inside the Commission.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIEE,
21st Nov. 1902.

1599. Referring to the appointment of Mr. C. H. Harrison, Officiating Postmaster-General of the Punjab, as District Judge of Ferozepur, "simply because there is no post available for him in the Postal Department," the *Bengalee* remarks:—"If an officer is made a Judge simply because no other post is available for him, then we cannot expect his judicial work to show a high standard of excellence. Nor can we blame him so much as the vicious system which often puts a round man in a square hole. But how can the public at large be expected to have much confidence in a tribunal which is presided over by an officer whose training has been other than judicial?"

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Nov. 1902.

1600. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, referring to the appointment of Mr. Hechle as Official Referee, asks why it was not possible for the Chief Justice to find a competent Barrister who under the orders of the Secretary of State and the Government India should have been appointed to the new post. There are many senior Barristers, graduates of English Universities, who applied for the post; but all of them were Bengalis, but surely, says the journal, the Chief Justice is expected to be above such prejudices. It wishes His Lordship had given some explanation for his selection of Mr. Hechle; for the fact cannot be ignored that the recipient of his patronage is a European Attorney, while the Barristers whose claims have been overlooked are all natives of the country.

INDIAN MIRROR,
23rd Nov. 1902.

1601. The *Indian Mirror* is stung with disappointment at Mr. Geidt's appointment to the High Court, *vice* Mr. Justice Rampini. It says:—

"We cannot hide from ourselves or from anybody else from among our countrymen the conviction that Sir Francis Maclean prefers Europeans to 'Natives' as his colleagues. It were otherwise unaccountable why Mr. B. L. Gupta's claim should have been repeatedly repudiated. Mr. Gupta is senior in the service to Mr. Geidt. He has rendered exceptionally meritorious service to the State. He has proved himself to be a most capable

Judge. His suppression, therefore, amounts to a positive scandal. We think little blame attaches to Lord Curzon in the matter, and this being an officiating appointment His Excellency's consent is purely formal."

1602. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates that while trying a case, Mr. Dentith, Subdivisional Officer of Giridih, found the verandah of his court-room crowded with spectators, and leaving his seat, rushed upon the crowd. Before, however, he could reach it, the verandah was deserted, but the Subdivisional Officer's eye fell on a pair of *nagra* shoes, which the witness deposing before the Court had left outside. Seizing the shoes the Magistrate is alleged to have flung them at the retreating spectators. If this account of the incident which the journal has received from an eye-witness is true, it hopes the authorities will put a stop to such exhibitions of temper which bring the administration into contempt.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Nov. 1902.

1603. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the acquittal of Chanda, the Parsi, who was sentenced by the Sessions Judge of Nagpur to be hanged in spite of the opinion of the assessors, and hopes that the result of the man's appeal will have a salutary effect upon the Sessions Judge. "He will no doubt now realize the fact that he is not after all infallible; that the opinions of the assessors, though they are Indians, are entitled to respect, specially in murder cases; and that when there is a difference between him and the assessors, the safer course for him is not to sentence a man to be hanged."

AMRITA BAZAR,
PATRIKA,
27th Nov. 1902.

(e)—*Local Self Government and Municipal Administration.*

1604. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains of the condition of some of the streets in Calcutta. They are impassable. It also states that fever is raging furiously in the town, and that it is high time the rate-payers combined for the protection of their interests.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Nov. 1902.

1605. *The Bengalee* compares the merits of the schemes proposed by Mr. Mazumdar, Assistant Comptroller-General, and Mr Barrow, Examiner of Public Works Accounts, and in upholding the former, says it does not understand why it has been proposed by the latter to withdraw the supervision of the Accounts Department of the Calcutta Municipality from the Vice-Chairman, unless it is to reduce the existing audit to 'no audit,' and to make the Department a tool in the hands of the spending department.

BENGALÉE,
22nd Nov. 1902.

(f)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

1606. *The Bengalee* writes that, in spite of an advertisement of the East Indian Railway authorities, inviting public attention to the facilities they offer to intending visitors to Delhi in the matter of providing horse boxes, they are unable to furnish such trucks. It suggests that the public should apply instead to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway in the matter.

BENGALÉE,
23rd Nov. 1902.

(h)—*General.*

1607. *The Bengalee* referring to Dr. Wallace's political programme, published in the first number of the *British Indian Recorder*, which is issued as a supplement to the *Indian Medical Recorder*, regards it as altogether a significant sign of the times. The utterances of the doctor, it says, indicate the dawn of a new relation between the Indian and the Anglo-Indian communities; they point to the desire for combined and united action, which, the *Bengalee* hopes, will soon be transformed into an accomplished fact and which promises to be productive of great benefits to both the communities.

BENGALÉE,
22nd Nov. 1902.

1608. *The Indian Mirror* writes with appreciation of Dr. Copplostone's protest at the gathering of Indian Christians against the promiscuous use of the word "native," and hopes that the members of the Established Church, whether laymen or priests, will take the hint. It also refers to the occasions

INDIAN MIRROR,
23rd Nov. 1902.

on which His Excellency the Viceroy has earnestly sought to prove that he regards the mere "native" as a human being with all the rights appertaining to the King's subjects, and that it is his desire to do justice to them.

BENGALIEE,
23rd Nov. 1902.

1609. With reference to the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Bourdillon to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, the *Bengalee* desires to thank His Excellency the Viceroy for this very happy choice, and more especially for his responsiveness to the intimations of public opinion. It takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Bourdillon on his elevation to the satrapy of Bengal, and, while giving him a hearty welcome, hopes and trusts his rule will usher in an era of peace and happiness to the people whom he knows so well and who know him well too.

The Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Nov. 1902.

1610. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, while congratulating the Hon'ble Mr. Bourdillon on his appointment to the Lieutenant-Governorship, expresses its dissatisfaction at the arrangement being temporary. This, it says,

Ibid.

is neither fair to Mr. Bourdillon, nor to his subordinates, nor the 70 millions of people of Bengal. It asks His Honour to signalise his rule by showing clemency to the rioters condemned to death in the Nandigram riot case.

BENGALIEE,
25th Nov. 1902.

1611. The *Bengalee* writes that before Mr. Bourdillon's appointment had been announced, it was reported that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce had wired to the Viceroy recommending Mr. Bourdillon for the vacant *munad* of Belvedere. Within a few hours Mr.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Bourdillon was appointed and the Government of India, says the journal, seem to have shown surprising promptitude in obeying the mandate of the Merchant Princes of Calcutta. The entire native population of India, it adds, respectfully prayed Lord Curzon to appoint Sir Henry Cotton to Belvedere, but that prayer was rejected. Such is the weight Indian opinion carries with the Government!

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th Nov. 1902.

1612. The *Indian Mirror* is concerned to hear that Mr. Bourdillon owes his elevation to the Lieutenant-Governorship to the good offices and direct intervention of the Chamber of Commerce, who "really governeth the country," and wonders whether the permanent man will be the nomination of the Chamber of Commerce or Lord Curzon's independent choice, regardless of prejudice or predilection. It asks Lord Curzon to note the fact that the universal native voice acclaims Sir Henry Cotton as the man.

"The omnipotent Chamber of Commerce."

BENGALIEE,
23rd Nov. 1902.

Anti-plague inoculation or wholesale poisoning.

1613. The *Bengalee* expresses the opinion that the Punjab Government cannot do better than publish a statement giving a plain and unvarnished account of the incident reported in the *Tribune*, that all the male inhabitants, numbering 25, of a certain hamlet were inoculated with Dr. Haffkine's anti-plague serum with the result that, within a few days, *every one of them died*. It states that rumours were rife previous to this that a tube of the serum had turned out to be rank poison, and that the plague staff in the Province had been warned by wire of this gruesome discovery. It also reports that three of the English Plague Doctors have tendered their resignation, which leads it to ask:—

"To what are we to attribute this exodus which threatens to become general? We must say the repeated bunglings of the Punjab Government in connection with the anti-plague operations have been too serious to be overlooked, and we are sure Lord Curzon would be the last man to shut his eyes to such a scandalous state of things."

In view of these circumstances the journal recommends that the sooner the operations are stopped the better, or there may be trouble ahead.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th Nov. 1902.

1614. Referring to Lord George Hamilton's statement in regard to the punishment of the IXth Lancers, that "we had established the perfect equality of races before the law," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that while it does not "entertain the notion that the Noble Lord is a untruthful man or even a humbug," it is surprised that he could "dare" make that statement, which is "simply not true." The circumstances shows with what apathy India is governed. His

"Equality before the law."

Lordship has been the despotic ruler of India for a period of 12 years, and he does not know that the Europeans have one law and the Indians another!

1615. Criticising the *Voice of India's* gushing reference to the "galvanic personality" of the Viceroy, who has done so much for the improvement of Rulers of Native States, the *Bengalee* says that it would be interesting to know what the Princes themselves think of this "galvanic personality" who has, by his numerous calls upon their purse, reduced them to comparative impecuniosity and given such a galvanic impetus to the process of exhausting their exchequer.

BENGALER,
20th Nov. 1902.

1616. The *Bengalee*, reverting to the forthcoming Darbar, alludes to the "unjustifiable expense at which this monumental folly is going to be committed in a dumb helpless dependency which is ever groaning under the weight of taxation; the land of plague, where men die by millions without any one but Providence being responsible for the result." No other spot in the world-wide Empire of His Britannic Majesty could be asked to celebrate the Coronation but this land, and here, too, Government goes out of its way to fetter the discretion of the people by prescribing the manner of displaying their loyalty, viz., "by a display of fire-works and illuminations."

BENGALER,
27th Nov. 1902.

Contrast this order of Government with its protestation too often repeated with patriarchal care and attention, against the *shradh* and marriage expenses! What a marked divergence between precept and example, and what sad morals does such inconsistency present to weak humanity!

1617. The *Indian Mirror* confesses it is in no particular love with the Commissions appointed by Lord Curzon. The members constituting them are oftener than not in a manner "under-trial prisoners" themselves, and when they become Judges at the same time, they hold the field, and the rest may be guessed.

INDIAN MIRROR,
27th Nov. 1902.

The Universities Commission did so badly that even the Government itself has mildly protested. Then there is the Railway Commission. Do the public anticipate any substantial good from its work? There is again the Irrigation Commission, the enquiry by which in the opinion of the *Mirror* was quite superfluous. Finally comes the Police Commission before whom much unpleasant truth has leaked out as to the prevailing corruption. On this particular point the journal suggests that there should be a separate Commission called the Corruption Commission, presided over by Lord Curzon himself. Let it be constituted by non-officials, and let witnesses be invited who will be immune from prosecution or persecution. And the truth will come out that it is not merely the native policeman who is corrupt, but others also have an itching palm.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1618. The *Bengalee* deeply regrets to announce the death of Sir J. Woodburn.

BENGALER,
21st Nov. 1902.

The late Sir John Woodburn. It does not desire to refer to the keen controversy that raged round his compulsory retention in office, but cannot help thinking that it was cruel to have kept him in harness. His life might have been prolonged, if not spared, if the burden of the affairs of the State was taken off his shoulders when the disease was only in its incipient stage.

1619. The *Indian Mirror* bewails the death of Sir John Woodburn, whom all Bengal loved and respected.

INDIAN MIRROR,
22nd Nov. 1902.

1620. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* joins in the general mourning for Sir John Woodburn, who endeared himself to

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Nov. 1902.

Ibid. Bengal almost as soon as he took up the reins of Government. He will, it says, be gratefully remembered for his plague policy and for his public attack on the police of the country.

BEHAR HERALD,
22nd Nov. 1902.

1621. The following notice is taken from an article in the *Behar Herald*:—

The late Sir John Woodburn.

"The death of Sir John Woodburn is felt by the people of this province as a public calamity. His name will be long cherished in India as a beneficent ruler who deeply touched the hearts of the people by his keen sympathy in their sufferings. Affable, courteous and kind hearted, his name will ever be remembered with love and gratitude by the people of this country, especially for his generous plague policy."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 29th November 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.